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DE RUEHAS #1809/01 3541012
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5028
INFO RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY 0358
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 8739
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY 1408
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY 6154
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2473
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 2084
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 6941
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY 3188
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY

S E C R E T ALGIERS 001809

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EO 12958 DECL: 12/19/2027
TAGS PTER, PINS, ASEC, AG
SUBJECT: AFTER THE LATEST ALGIERS BOMBINGS: THIS WILL BE A
LONG HAUL

Classified By: Ambassador Robert Ford, reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (S) SUMMARY: The December 11 bombings in Algiers demonstrate that Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) can adapt its tactics to discredit

AQIM IS AN ADAPTIVE ORGANISM

12. (SBU) AQIM is using a variety of tactics to keep the Algerian government guessing and that are slowly raising concerns among the foreign cc
-- Summer 2006: ambushes with roadside bombs and gunfire against Algerian army patrols in the mountains east of Algiers;
-- October 2006: first car bombs in years in the Algiers region, hitting two police stations;
-- December 2006: first attack on foreigners in years, using a roadside bomb to hit a U.S.-Algerian company bus in Algiers suburb, killing two
-- February 2007: multiple, coordinated, powerful car bombs in towns scattered in the mountains outside Algiers;
-- March 2007: another roadside bomb against a bus full of foreigners, this time a Russian company bus west of Algiers;
-- April 2007: suicide van and truck bombs simultaneously hit Prime Minister's offices in downtown Algiers and destroy a police station east of
-- July 2007: suicide truck bomb hits Algerian army base at Lakhdaria, east of Algiers, killing dozens of soldiers;
-- September 2007: another suicide truck bomb, this one driven by a 15 year old, hits Algerian coast guard base at Dellys, east of Algiers, aga
-- September 2007: drive-by suicide car bomb attack on a French/Italian company convoy in the mountains east of Algiers
-- September 2007: suspected planning of a kidnapping of two French nationals working at the Algiers airport leads to the sudden departure of t
-- December 2007: roadside bomb attack again targets a Russian company bus west of Algiers;
-- December 2007: simultaneous suicide truck bombs destroy UN offices and damage Supreme Court building in central Algiers; one of the truck dr

EXPECT MORE ATTACK METHOD VARIATION A LA IRAQ

13. (S) The Al-Qaida in Iraq network, which already has ties to jihadi groups in Algeria, has strong influence on AQIM elements. The suicide bc

IRAQ AND PALESTINE HELP RECRUITMENT

14. (C) A prominent conservative Islamist political leader, Abdallah Djaballah, told the Ambassador on December 17 that the suicide attacks den

ALGERIAN SECURITY FORCES: FRUSTRATED

15. (S) The Algerian government is trying to figure out how best to contain and eliminate the extremist problem.
Algerian military forces conducted major sweeping operations in the troublesome mountains east of Algiers as well as along the eastern border i

16. (C) The government now is warning the public that it cannot completely contain the terrorist threat. Interior Minister Zerhouni told the pr

HARD LINE OR SOFT TOUCH ?

17. (S) Water Resources Minister Sellal, who is often rumored to be on a short list to be the next prime minister, told Ambassador December 16

18. (S) Bouteflika himself has made no public remarks in the wake of the December 11 bombings. The Portuguese ambassador, who accompanied his f

COMMENT

19. (S) AQIM is very far from being able to bring down the Algerian government but it can certainly make it look weak and foolish. From a narrc

10. (S) Looking forward, we can imagine that the security situation could stay roughly as it is now or deteriorate; we do not expect it to imp